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God,

The 'divine' engineer

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for August 3, 1980
Scripture Reference: Isaiah 45-47, Ezra 1:1-4
Focal Passages: Isaiah 45: 1-7, 11-13; Ezra 1:1-4
The Divine Engineer [Isa. 44: 24-28

Throughout history God has been the Divine "Engineer" who has sought to remold and rebuild his people. In our own age we see that our world is in a state of constant "disorderly conduct." Nothing short of divine intervention can give our world order in the midst of chaos and conflict.

Yet God brings about His divine deliverance in spite of the cosmic disorder. In our lesson this week we learn how God was able to reverse and remake His people through His divine engineering. And He accomplishes this by using a man who was a pagan king.

Our lessons have revealed time and again that God is committed to redeem His people from captivity. No matter how impossible this task appeared, God would bring about His promises of deliverance.

The Instrument Of Deliverance [Isa. 45:1-7]

The man in the "spotlight" was Cyrus, king of the mighty Persian empire. In a strange twist of irony, Cyrus was chosen by God to taste victory in all battles. Nothing would hinder his stronghold on the cities he would conquer. In spite of God's favor Cyrus, according to some historical references, was not acknowledged God as his Lord.

The ultimate design behing God's choice of Cyrus was to benefit the people of Israel, not Cyrus. This seems to say that God may use us in spite of ourselves. It is far better, however, when we willingly choose to play a part in God's eternal plan. This is the way of blessing.

Verses 1-7 of Chapter 45 reflects two great truths, namely, that God would make Himself universally known, and that He is the Creator of all things. In other words, He is the "Divine Engineer." In His great wisdom He permits both the evil and the good to struggle and co-exist side by side.

God Is Challenged [Isa. 45: 9-13]

The Bible and daily living

Not everyone approved of God's choice to become His "annointed" instrument. The very idea that God should choose a pagan king to aid Him in His divine deliverance plan was repulsive to some. God's initial response to His critics is this: "Who are you to question me and the work of my hands?"

Human wisdom falls far short of God's divine and perfect judgment. God was not committing any violation of His kingly standards. God chose Cyrus to accomplish His specific plan to make good His promises to the exiles.

A Divine Plan Of Action [Ezra 1:1-4]

We look to Ezra to discover how and when God executed His divine plan to bring the captives home. The mighty Persian Empire, under the leadership of Cyrus, destroyed the Babylonian military machine and made possible the freeing of the captives.

Cyrus was very respectful of those Jewish exiles in captivity. He seemingly issued verbal and written decrees declaring the right of the Jewish exiles to return home. Cyrus was a crucial figure in God's plan to free the exiles and bring them home again. Whether Cyrus was fully aware of this we don't know. Had he acknowledged God as his Lord and chosen to follow Him all of his days, life would have held deeper meaning for him.

Whenever we choose to acknowledge God and seek to conform our lives with His plan, we are bound on a course of freedom and joy. We are each "exiles" until we walk down the road of faith towards home. To choose faith is to choose our true home.

Dr. William L. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

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The Pastor Speaks

The need for patience

By REX J. BENNETT

Patience, The Hardest Virtue

Hebrews 10:35-36 - "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

The above scripture from the book of Hebrews states for us one of the outstanding characteristics of today, and that is, **our lack of patience**, which seems to be the hardest virtue of all. And even though there is an obvious lack of patience among us, we should point out that impatience is not always a sin. As a matter of fact, there are some things that should be done immediately, and even our Lord Himself was quick to do certain immediate and necessary things.

However, there is a need for patience in our day! Traditions says that the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Hebrews, but to speculate about the author of the book is unimportant compared to the message of the book itself. Hebrews was written to Christians who were experiencing adverse and difficult circumstances; it was a time of Christian persecution. So this book was written as a source of encouragement to those Christians who were saying that they had waited long enough for the rewards of their loyalty to Christ. And in the above scripture, this author says to them: 'No, you haven't waited long enough . . . do not throw away your confidence in God . . . you have a need to be more patience.'

1. Young people need this encouragement; they need to be reminded that patience is a virtue; do not rush yourself concerning your career, your life, or in your conclusions in your value judgments. And surely, we adults and parents, need to be admonished to be more patient with our youth in their attempt to work out their destiny.

2. We also have a need for patience with the world in which we live. Neither a world, nor a nation, solves all its problem over-night. Nations are built out of experience, often out of social struggles, and out of inspired leadership. Wisdom in anything is not something that can be gained in a hurry, and the affairs of a world are no exception.

3. And, of course, we must learn to be patient with God at times. So often, we would like to push God along more quickly, don't we? We see so much that is wrong in our world, and we wonder why God allows it to make such progress. We pray and God doesn't seem to answer soon enough. Patience with God comes from the belief that the mills of God grind slowly, and that He is the ruler yet. And even though we now see through a glass darkly, there is a time coming when we shall know and understand. It is interesting to note that God did not even shorten our Lord's suffering on the Cross.

Never will we know the whole reason for the seemingly slowness of God, but we do know that He is love, and He Himself is patient. Martin Luther of the Protestant Reformation once remarked: "If I were God for five seconds, I would destroy the entire human race." But thank God that God is God and that He is long-suffering to us, "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

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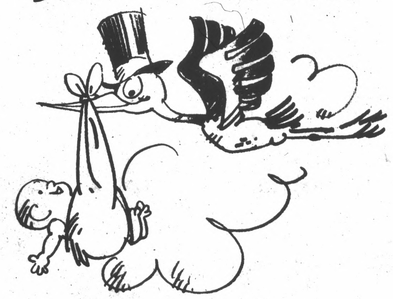

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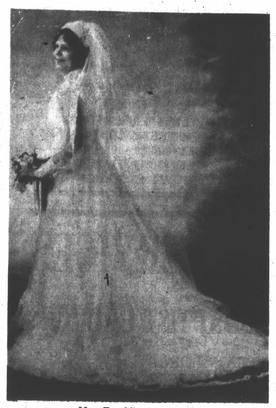

Mrs. Franklin Graham II

Miss Mathews weds Mr. Graham

The marriage of Miss Margaret Withers Mathews to Franklin William Graham II took place Saturday morning at 10 o'clock in St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Appomattox.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Addison Mathews of Appomattox and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Franklin Graham of Stone Mountain, Ga.

The Rev. E. Moray Peoples, rector of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Barboursville, W. Va., officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride was escorted and given in marriage by her father.

Mrs. James D. Greenwood of Richmond was her sister's matron of honor and attendants were Miss Pamela H. Davis, also of Richmond, cousin of the bride; Miss Donna M. Dedrick of Stuarts Draft and Miss Kathy Fratrick of Appomatox. Miss Jennifer M. Greenwood of Richmond, niece of the bride, was junior attendant.

Stephen P. Slice of Anderson, S. C. was best man and ushers were Arthur U. Graham of Stone Mountain, brother of the bridegroom; John A. Mathews Jr. of Appomattox, brother of the bride, and Franklin A. Ingham of Shelville, Ga.

Miss Katie Powell of Appomattox was flower girl and Eric Powell, also of Appomattox, was ring bearer.

Immediately after the ceremony the bride's parents entertained with a breakfast at their home.

The bride is a graduate of Seven Hills School and will graduate from Clemson University in the fall.

The bridegroom was graduated from Clarkston High School and received a B.S. degree from Clemson University.

The couple will live in Spartanburg, S.C.

Miss Debra Anne Stratton

Miss Stratton to wed Mr. Dawson

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Stratton of Concord have announced the engagement of their daughter, Debra Anne, to Mr. Joel Allen Dawson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Dawson of Lynchburg.

Miss Stratton is a graduate of Appomattox County High School and Virginia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She is employed at Virginia Baptist Hospital where she is working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Mr. Dawson is a graduate of Brookville High School and attends Central Virginia Community College. He is employed with the City of Lynchburg.

The wedding is planned for 8 o'clock the evening of October 25, in the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Jones to head fund drive

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has announced that Mr. Fred Jones has been appointed to serve as Chairman for the Fall 1980 Skate-A-Thon Campaign in Appomattox.

William J. Kirwen, St. Jude's Director of Development, made the announcement and said more information will be forthcoming concerning the date, place, time, etc.

"We are proud to find such a dedicated person for this important task." Kirwen said, "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital offers hope to sticken children everywhere that would not be possible without such volunteers".

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the only research center dedicated exclusively to the study and conquest of catastrophic diseases of children. Its work, particularly in leukemia and other childhood cancers, has been internationally acclaimed and cited as a leading example for basic and clinical research.

"No one has ever been charged for the benefits provided by St. Jude Hospital, Kirwen said, "and that includes the extremely expensive total medical care provided to children enrolled in its research studies."

Over two-thirds of this year's 19 million dollar operating budget came from public support. Each year we rely on events like this to pay for the following year's costs.

Since Danny Thomas opened this institution in 1962, his dream of conquering the deadly diseases of childhood has continously been brought closer to reality. Mr. Thomas is still the very active president of this organization and inspires us in this cause", Kirwen said.

CLASSIFIED ADS ....RESULTS....

Anita Renne Christian and George Edward Franklin

Miss Christian to wed Mr. Franklin

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Christian of Madison Heights announce the engagement of their daughter, Anita Renne, to George Edward Franklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Franklin of Concord.

Miss Christian is a graduate of the Amherst County High School and is presently employed by Lynchburg Training School.

Mr. Franklin is a graduate of the Appomattox High School and is presently employed by Archer Creek Foundry.

The wedding will take place on August 16, 1980.

Southall receives degree

Alger Rixey Southall, III, grandson of the late A. Rixey Southall, Sr., and Mrs. Southall of Pamplin; is currently in post-graduate residency training with the Blackstone Family Practice Program in Blackstone, Va.

He graduated from the Medical College of Virginia during ceremonies in Richmond May 17 and 18.

Dr. Southall was honored by MCV on May 8, when the school of medicine held its Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society Student Honors Day.

At this ceremony, Dr. Southall, a member of AOA, was awarded the 1980 MCV Family Practice Award.

The award is given each year to a graduating senior entering family practice who has achieved an outstanding record during medical school and who exemplifies those qualities desired in a family practitioner.

A native of Louisa County, he graduated from Louisa County High School in 1972 and received a BS in biology from the University of Richmond in 1976. He is married to the former Vickie Hopkins, also formerly of Louisa.

He is the son of Mrs. George B. Lancaster of Louisa and the late Dr. A. Rixey Southall, Jr.

Morris family slates reunion

The family of Robert Nathaniel Morris will hold a reunion Aug. 10 at the Woodmen of the World building in Appomattox.

All relatives are urged to attend.

Wanda Ann Phelps

Miss Phelps to wed Mr. Jobe

Mr. and Mrs. James Woody, Jr. of Appomattox announce the engagement of her daughter, Wanda Ann Phelps to John William Jobe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace David Jobe of Gladstone.

Miss Phelps, also daughter of the late Mr. Baxter (Lyle) Phelps, is a graduate of Appomattox County High School. She is presently employed by Armstrong Furniture Industry.

Mr. Jobe is a graduate of Nelson County High School. He is also employed by Armstrong Furniture Industry.

The wedding is planned for September 6, 1980 at the home of the bride.

FRCC ladies plan tourney

The Falling River Country Club Ladies' Club Championship Golf Tournament will be played the weekend of August 16-17, 1980.

Saturday, August 16, play will start at 9:00 with a covered dish luncheon served after play.

Sunday, August 17, play will start at 1:00 with a catered supper after play.

The price for the Club Championship will be $10.00 plus cart fees. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the club and sign-up deadline will be August 14, 1980.

The golfers will be flighted after the first day and the tournament will consist of three flights; **Championship flight, first flight and second flight.**

Any member having questions concerning this tournament should contact Jane Lyon at 993-2437.

Ferguson family plans reunion

The family of the late C. C. and Nannie Ferguson will have a reunion at the Appomattox Rescue Squad building Aug. 10.

Family and friends are asked to attend and bring a picnic lunch. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m.

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